

ASSIGNMENT 8: RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Assignment Purpose: To help you start early on choosing a topic and beginning the research for your final paper.

Assignment Details:

Using the many search tools offered through the UCD library website, you will find 10 sources related to your specific topic that may be useful for your research paper. These sources must include both *print* and *electronic* texts. You will turn in a document with two parts:

- 1) Proposal. Write one paragraph describing your proposed topic for your research paper. You should include the names of the primary text(s) you plan to analyze and the basic critical questions that will drive your analysis. You should include a statement that resembles a thesis or a strong argument, though this statement will certainly change as your paper develops.
- 2) Annotated Bibliography. In order to find five sources that will be useful to you, you will have to look through many sources that are not. Your annotated bibliography should contain *ten entries*. Five of these entries should be sources you think you will use in your final paper (it's okay if these sources change as you write—this is just a first step). The other five entries should be for sources you found that you don't think will be useful.

For each source, you should begin with the properly formatted citation in MLA style. E.g.:

Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*. 2nd ed. New York: Norton, 2010.

Following the citation, you should write *two paragraphs*. The first paragraph summarizes the source. What is the main argument? What kinds of evidence does the author use? The second paragraph should either explain how the source will be useful to the argument you described in the proposal, or should explain how you determined that the source will not be useful to you.